

## PATENT APPLICATION

Serial No. 10/649,331 Atty. Docket No. 388-031684

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit 3618

:

In re Application of

:

Akira MINOURA et al.

WORKING VEHICLE PROPELLED BY

INDEPENDENTLY DRIVEN RIGHT AND

**LEFT RUNNING UNITS** 

Serial No. 10/649,331

Filed August 26, 2003

:

Examiner-Not Yet Assigned

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania February 12, 2004

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits this Information Disclosure Statement together with a completed Form PTO/SB/08A and a copy of some of the references listed thereon.

This application corresponds and claims priority to Japanese Application No. 2002-277727, filed September 24, 2002.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 12, 2004.

Kay E. Yetter
(Name of Person Mailing Paper)

Signature

Date

{W0105165.1}

The relevance of Japanese unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2000-71790, of which an Abstract is enclosed herewith, is indicated on page 1, lines 28-29 of the specification. U. S. Patent No. 6,578,656 is enclosed herewith as a corresponding English language equivalent of JP 2000-71790. The relevance of Japanese unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2000-351330 is indicated in the Partial English Translation of the relevant portions of this reference, enclosed herewith.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), no fee is believed to be due for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, as it is being submitted before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits. Nevertheless, the Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-0650. The original and two copies of this Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON ORKIN & HANSON, P.C.

Alexander Dets

Alexander Detschelt Registration No. 50,261 Attorney for Applicants 700 Koppers Building

436 Seventh Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1818 Telephone: 412-471-8815 Facsimile: 412-471-4094

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → +

Approved for use through 10/31/2001. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form	n 1449A/PTO		· ·			
				Complete if Known		
∣ INFORM	MATION D	ISCLOS	URE	Application Number	10/649,331	
STATE	<b>JENT BY</b>	APPLIC.	ΔΝΤ	Filing Date	August 26, 2003	
SIAIL	MENT DI	AI I LIO		First Named Inventor	Akira Minoura et al.	
(use a	is many sheets as nec	essary)		Group Art Unit	3618	
,				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned	
Sheet	1	Of	1	Attorney Docket Number	388-031684	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
		4,738,328		Hayden	April 19, 1988		
		6,196,348	B1	Yano et al.	March 6, 2001		
		6,578,656	B2	Samejima et al.	June 17, 2003		
			<u> </u>				
			-				
	ļ						
	<del>                                     </del>		1				
	1						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent I  Office <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup>	Document  Kind Code <sup>5</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>	
		JP 2000-71790		Kubota Corp.	March 7, 2000			
		JP 2000-351330		Kubota Corp.	December 19, 2000		х	
•								

Examiner	Date	
Signature	Considered	

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231.

<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.